are implemented by the Ministry of Welfare.

(c) The implementation of the schemes is reviewed periodically and are effectively monitored to ensure that the benefits reach the target groups.

Statement

Welfare Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of welfare for Providing Employment to SCs/STs/Minorities and OBCs

(*Rs. in Crores*)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Allocated During		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Financial assistance from National Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)	65.00	65.00	96.00
2.	Financial assistance from National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	39.00	42.00	47.00
3.	Financial assistance from National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC) . .	39.00	36.00	41.00

Amount sanctioned under the scheme of post matric scholarship for SCs and STs

2160. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 65 crores have been allocated during the year 1997-98 which is less than half of the amount sanctioned during 1996-97 under the scheme of post Matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the funding pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 100% central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, for the expenditure over and above their respective committed liability. The expenditure reached at the end of the Five Year Plan period becomes committed liability of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which is borne by them during each year of the succeeding Five Year Plan period. Accordingly, the likely total expenditure of Rs. 364.75 crores, as reported by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the year 1996-97, which was the last year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, becomes their committed liability. Therefore, out of the estimated total expenditure of Rs. 421.34 crores in 1997-98, the likely committed liability of Rs. 364.75 crores of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations,

would be borne by them and the expenditure of Rs. 56.59 crores, over and above the committed liability would be the likely requirement of central assistance. The allocation of Rs. 65 crores, for the year 1997-98 should, therefore, suffice.

Implementation of the persons with disabilities Bill, 1996

2161. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly 10% of the country's population is disabled who face some special handicap in their socio-economic environment;

(b) whether provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Bill, 1996 was enacted to meet these handicaps;

(c) whether highlights of the Bill were to provide special amenities in State buses for persons with wheelchair, buildings with ramps to facilitate wheelchair users, restrictions on employers, free and adequate education up to the age of 18 for disabled persons, special teachers training etc; and

(d) if so, how many of these provisions have been implemented so far, with details?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Estimates of the number of persons with disabilities vary, depending on the definitions, the methodology and the extent of use of scientific instruments in identifying and measuring the degree of disability. In the year 1991 NSSO conducted a countrywide survey covering (i) visual (ii) hearing (iii) Speech and (iv) locomotor disabilities. About 16.15 million people were estimated to have one or the other of the 4 types of disabilities mentioned above. This constitutes 1.9 percent of the total estimated population of the country.

Apart from it, NSSO conducted a nationalwide survey to assess the number of children with delayed mental development during the year 1991. The survey showed that 3% of the children in the age group of 1-14 years are suffering from delayed mental development. Various surveys conducted in different parts of the country show that prevalence of mental retardation is approximately 2% of population.

(b) The Act provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for the disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Implementation of the persons with Disabilities Bill, 1996

(a) The implementation of the provisions of the Act require a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all concerned Ministries of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments and other appropriate authorities. While in the area of prevention, early detection and intervention, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Women & Child Development have